



Winterize Your Annuals

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In past seasons we have outlined useful steps a grower can take to fall fertilize perennial crops so they go into dormancy in better shape and emerge from winter dormancy with greater vigor. **But what about winterizing annuals like corn and soybeans?** This sounds silly because these crops, unless you're in Hawaii or south Florida, are killed by the winter. But is it silly?

2013's weather conditions caused much of our country's corn and bean crops to get planted very late. So late that many Cornbelt growers may be wondering if their crop will mature before a killing frost descends. If you are among this group and are wondering if there is anything you can do about it, the answer is "yes". There are two tactics possible.

The first, which we must point out is experimental, is to use **a foliar to accelerate flowering and pollination**. AgriEnergy has formulated an experimental product that has been used successfully in Nebraska to do just that. The grower, a seed producer, was astonished how quickly his females evened up in size allowing him to cut tassels. He projected that very little hand detasseling would be needed where the foliar was sprayed. This he compared to an untreated area where there was a lot of unevenness in the plants as they approached reproduction. In other words, we were able to accelerate the development and onset of reproduction in those females that were lagging behind. We did so with a foliar product that can also be made for use on certified organic.

The second tactic that can be employed is **a foliar fertilizer application**. An application of the same products we use for winterizing our perennials – such as **AgriBoost PK, Accelerator, Pillar** – delivered with **SP-1™**.

Our fertilizer products work for perennials because they give the plant a better nutritional makeup than they would otherwise have, the consequence of which is that their sap freezes at a lower temperature. These factors allow the perennial more time to do what it needs to do to prepare for winter.

SP-1™ plays a double role in a fall foliar. It assists, of course, in the uptake of the applied products, especially those that contain fish. It also coats the leaves of your crop with beneficial bacteria. The presence of high levels of friendly bacteria on a plant's leaves can play an important role at excluding ice nucleating bacteria.

Like perennials, annuals that have not fully completed their life cycle can benefit from late season mineral and biological enhancements. Buying a crop just a few more days of active life when winter is bearing down could make a big difference. Or, keeping annuals alive through the first cold snap to let them thrive in an Indian Summer might be just what is needed this season.

Should I winterize my annuals? Maybe so, if you have late planted crops. A foliar feeding to increase nutrient density and lower the crop's freeze point may well be in order.

And who better to assist you than the company whose mission is to help biological farmers grow healthy, nutrient dense crops? Give your **AgriEnergy Resources** representative a call today to discuss winterizing your annuals.

P.S. Don't forget to winterize your perennials.